

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A single use self-contained surgical knife having a single blade, comprising:
 - a. containment means for housing said surgical knife blade;
 - b. stabilization means having at least a pair of slot faces for preventing twisting of said blade;
 - ~~e. lateral stabilization means having at least two shaft support bushings for supporting a shaft carrying said blade;~~
 - ~~d. c.~~ retraction means for exerting spring tension on said knife blade to move said blade into said containment means;
 - ~~e. d.~~ locking means comprising a rectangular lug misaligned to a rectangular opening in a knurled ring member, for locking said knife blade in an 'in-use' position; ~~and wherein a user turning means for turning turns~~ said knurled ring member after using said surgical knife in order to release the rectangular lug and retract the knife blade permanently into the said containment casing.
2. (original): A single use self-contained surgical knife as recited by claim 1, wherein said slot faces are formed in a slot block, and said slot block is attached to the containment casing.

3. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife as recited by claim 2, wherein said slot faces are coated with a low friction material.
4. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife, as recited by claim 2, wherein said slot block is fabricated from PTFE, HDPE or other low friction material.
5. (original): A single use, self-contained surgical knife, as recited by claim 1, wherein said knurled ring member is coated with a low friction coating for easy release of said rectangular lug.
6. (currently amended): A process for making a single use self-contained surgical knife, comprising the steps of:
 - a. assembling together a plurality of components to form a central knife shaft assembly of said surgical knife, said components including:
 - (i) a central shaft;
 - (ii) a welded knife blade;
 - (iii) a welded cylindrical lug; and
 - (v) a welded rectangular lug;
 - b. assembling component parts of a two part containment casing structure having a containment member and a support member capable of providing lateral and twist support for said knife blade and said central knife shaft assembly;
 - c. inserting said central shaft assembly into said support member;
 - d. inserting a compression spring to rest on ~~the~~ said support member;

- e. inserting a knurled ring member aligning a rectangular opening with a rectangular lug of said central knife shaft assembly;
- f. ~~applying pressure with a specialized tool to compressing~~ the said compression spring against said cylindrical lug; and
- g. turning said knurled ring member to misalign said opening with said lug.